

REPORT/RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA  
AND RECORD OF ACTION

42

July 1, 2003

**FROM:** RUDY LOPEZ, Director  
Department of Behavioral Health

**SUBJECT:** AGREEMENT WITH EASTFIELD MING QUONG CHILDREN AND FAMILY  
SERVICES FOR WRAPAROUND SERVICES

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve Agreement between the County (Department of Behavioral Health) and Eastfield Ming Quong (EMQ) Children and Family Services in the amount of \$1,785,330 for Wraparound Services for the period July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** Approval of this agreement will allow the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) to provide Medi-Cal funded mental health services to children and adolescents as part of the Senate Bill (SB) 163 Wraparound Project.

In 1997, SB 163 amended the Welfare and Institutions code to authorize State Foster Care funds to provide Wraparound Services to children and adolescents in or at risk of placement in Rate Classification Level 10-14 group homes. All group home providers are classified into one of fourteen Rate Classification Levels (RCLs) based on the level of care and services provided. RCL 1 group homes are the lowest level of care, and RCL 14 homes are the highest. RCL 14 group homes provide services to children in need of constant mental health services.

Wraparound Services are intensive, community-based, family centered services designed to allow seriously emotionally disturbed children to remain in their communities or at the lowest level of care possible. The program goal is to take children and adolescents out of high level group home placements and tailor specific services that will allow them to live in family-like settings in their own communities. Wraparound Services have been successful in California and several other states in reducing out of home placement, the length of stay out of home, and the number of youths maintained out of their communities.

On June 4, 2002 the Board of Supervisors approved Agreement No. 02-459 between the County Department of Children's Services (DCS) and EMQ for Wraparound Services for the period June 1, 2002 through May 31, 2005 (Item 96). Agreement 02-459 addressed Wraparound Services for children who are dependents/wards of the Juvenile Court. Services are determined through the formal and/or informal assessment of family needs. It was estimated at that time that implementation and enrollment of the initial participants would take several months. In addition, Agreement 02-459 requires that DBH and EMQ develop an agreement for mental health outpatient services for youth served in the Wraparound Project.

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## **AGREEMENT WITH EASTFIELD MING QUONG CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES FOR WRAPAROUND SERVICES**

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On September 17, 2002 (Item 26), the Board approved the agreement for mental health outpatient services, which was additional to Agreement 02-459. The mental health outpatient agreement provided Wraparound Services through EMQ for the period September 23, 2002 through June 30, 2003 in the amount of \$624,151. The initial three months of the agreement were for startup costs and Medi-Cal certification, as this aspect of the project required EMQ to secure a Medi-Cal certified facility. Obtaining Medi-Cal certification is a 2 to 3 month process. EMQ began seeing clients in January 2003.

This item brings forward the mental health outpatient agreement with EMQ for the period July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004. This agreement provides services according to the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) Medi-Cal Rehabilitation Option. Services provided include assessment, plan development, medication evaluation and support, crisis intervention, therapy, rehabilitation, and case management services to seriously emotionally disturbed children and adolescents (up to age 18) who are clients of DCS, Juvenile Probation, or DBH, and who would otherwise be served in intensive out-of-home residential placements. Services are provided to the child/adolescent living with birth parent, relative, adoptive parent, foster parent, or in specialized foster care.

These services reduce the length of stay in higher level group homes and the need for institutional care including locked hospital care. Approval of this agreement will allow children to receive safe and appropriate care in the least restrictive environment. Services are delivered to children/adolescents and their families in the City of San Bernardino and the surrounding areas. Provision of service extends into the community and involves the delivery of services in the client's home, neighborhood, school, and in conjunction with other mental health providers and client support networks. EMQ anticipates serving 522 clients in FY 2003/04.

**REVIEW BY OTHERS:** This item was reviewed and approved as to form by Deputy County Counsel, Charles J. Larkin on June 18, 2003. This item was also reviewed by County Administrative Office, Carol Hughes, Administrative Analyst on June 19, 2003.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:** Approval of this item will provide mental health outpatient services to children and adolescents who are involved in San Bernardino County's Wraparound Project, in the amount of \$1,785,330 for FY 2003/04. Funding for these services is included in the Department's proposed FY 2003/04 budget. This agreement is funded 50% by Medi-Cal, 45% by State EPSDT Medi-Cal and 5% by Realignment funds. There is no local cost to the County.

**COST REDUCTION REVIEW:** The County Administrative Office has reviewed this agenda item and recommends approval as it imposes no additional cost to the County and provides access to DBH services for at-risk youth.

**SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT (S):** ALL

**PRESENTER:** Rudy Lopez, Director (909) 387-7024